

Montana State Constitution

Article 10. Education and Public Lands

Section 1. Educational goals and duties.

The legislature shall provide a basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools.

The legislature has absolutely NO constitutional obligation to fund private education in any way.

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Section 6. Aid prohibited to sectarian schools.

(1) The legislature, counties, cities, towns, school districts, and public corporations shall not make any direct or indirect appropriation or payment from any public fund or monies, or any grant of lands or other property for any sectarian purpose or to aid any church, school, academy, seminary, college, university, or other literary or scientific institution, controlled in whole or in part by any church, sect, or denomination.

HB 591 is a pay voucher bill. In so far as HB 591 provides a pay voucher - a direct appropriation of state funds - to a religious school of any sort for special education purposes, it violates our constitution.